

It's In The BOOKS

By DEWEY DIRRIM

The Complete Woodcuts of Albrecht Durer, edited by Dr. Willi Kurth.

Paper bound, 8½ by 12¼ inches, 346 pages, published by Dover Publications Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, N.Y., Catalog #T1097, price \$2.50.

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Fine arts authorities recognize Durer as a master in many media but feel that his finest creative expression is exhibited by his woodcuts done early in the sixteenth century. Over 300 are known to exist and a number of them are familiar to even the least knowledgeable of us—his classic "The Rhinoceros" for example.

As the book title suggests all of his extant woodcuts are shown, many of them full page illustrations.

The bulk of the woodcuts depict various biblical scenes although some variety is present in the form of magnificently drawn coats of arms, architectural detail, maps, zodiacs, and battle scenes.

There is little doubt that these exquisite woodcuts if reproduced in leather, would result in strikingly beautiful panels, book covers, etc., however most are finely detailed and a goodly amount of skill in copying off the patterns and in the carving itself should be considered a prerequisite. The problem as I see it would be in the elimination of the unnecessary detail during the pattern making operation while retaining all basic lines and then after the initial carving, to replace the myriad detail and shadings in such a manner as to recapture the original beauty and impact of the print. Remember that woodcuts rely on hundreds of finely engraved lines to produce shading that convey the illusion of depth. In leather carving the relief itself provides some dimension, but the handling of the bevelers and shaders must be articulate to create the desired effect. Even so, I believe that embossing or perhaps dye

ANNUAL INDEX, VOLUME X

LEATHER PICTURES ON FRONT COVERS

Flying Leather Shop—David Whelpley	No. 1
The Old Chief—Nellie E. Copson (With pattern and notes)	No. 2
Time To Think—Bill Chappell (With pattern)	No. 3
Yukon Yakki—Alberta VanDorn (With pattern and notes)	No. 4
America's Fighting Men, 1776—Gene Noland	No. 5
The Apprentice—Caroline Marie Johnson (With pattern and notes)	No. 6

LEATHER CARVING PROJECTS WITH PATTERNS

Christmas Greeting Cards—Chestley and Helen Duft	No. 1
Leather Animal Banks: Dog, Bear, Pig, Rabbit, Duck, Fish	
—Chestley and Helen Duft	No. 1
Coats of Arms (2 patterns)—Roy D. Nulph	No. 1
Skiing Billfold Designs—Gene Noland	No. 1
Plunker Or Blaster (Cartridge cases)—Terry Moon	No. 1
"Suki" Cosmetic Bag—Lowell F. Steinert	No. 1
Hand Grip—Al VanDorn	No. 1
Indian Designs (For billfolds etc.)—Elsie V. Hanauer	No. 1
Leather Book Marks—Lucille Lain	No. 1
Craftsman Binder—Ken Griffin	No. 2
Spacecraft Project (For boy's room)—Chestley and Helen Duft	No. 2
Snap-Link Belt and Case—Terry Moon	No. 3
Shotguns, Anyone? (Case, cutting patterns)—Sam Bacak	No. 4
Covers For Craftaids & Doodle Pages—Ann Stohlman	No. 4
Skeet Shooter's Shell Case—Alberta VanDorn	No. 4
Leather Horse-Shoe Items: Desk Pen Holder, Pipe Holder, Coin Purse	
—Al Stohlman	No. 5
Star—Time (Clock Faces)—Chestley and Helen Duft	No. 5
Zodiac Leather Table Top—Nell Copson	No. 5
Keep America Beautiful With Leather—Cliff Larson	No. 5
Gunstock Boot (Personalize Your Rifle)—Howard Grayson	No. 6
Betty-Lu Clutch Bag—Lucille Lain	No. 6

LEATHER PROJECTS—CARVING PATTERN NOT FEATURED

Christmas Bells and Stockings—Mrs. Otto Mettler	No. 1
Carved Key Tags—W. J. Ricketts	No. 1
Small Billfold—Lowell F. Steinert	No. 1
Tool Box Case—Ann Stohlman	No. 2
Cigarette Extinguisher—Duane B. Walton	No. 2
A Purse With A Difference—Tannis Pond	No. 2
Saddle Purse—Carol H. Dahms	No. 3
Auto Slip Covers—Walt Haringe	No. 3
Australian Watchband—George Tilley	No. 3
Heavy Duty Watchband—Dale Heron	No. 3
The Silver Gun Belt—Howard Grayson	No. 3
Renewed Wheelchair—Charlene Pierce	No. 3
The Doctor's Little Black Bag—Jim Reilly	No. 3
Planter of Leather—Carol Magnusen	No. 3
A Gift To Be Treasured—Maisie G. Ferguson	No. 3
Seal Change Purse—Carol H. Dahms	No. 3
My Flower Purse—Mrs. Otto Mettler	No. 3
Log Book Cover For Truckers—Philip Antus	No. 4
Badge Case & Log Book—Henry M. Doherty	No. 4
Leggins From The Early West—Howard Grayson	No. 4
The Easterner's Western Belt—Nell Copson	No. 4
Lifetime Calendar—Duane B. Walton	No. 4
Vacuum Bottle Case—Janet Remfrey	No. 5
Thermos Carrier—Bob Deaton	No. 5
A Mother and Daughter Pair (Handbags)—Maisie G. Ferguson	No. 5
Golf Tee Carry Case—Nell Copson	No. 5
Buckskin Knife Sheath—Howard Grayson	No. 5
Two-Pocket Key Kup—William L. Sheeler	No. 5
American Hassock—William C. Knipscher	No. 6
Matching Shell Carrier—Sam Bacak	No. 6
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Cavalry Style Saddle Bags—Carol Dahms	No. 6
Eyeglass Case, Heavy Duty—Rena S. Lord	No. 6
Flower Carved Quirt—Keith Heynes	No. 6

Re-covering My Bible — <i>C. L. Coates</i>	No. 6
Children's Suspender Extenders — <i>Nell Copson</i>	No. 6
Knick-Knack Boxes — <i>Caroline Mitchell</i>	No. 6

GARMENT MAKING

The Easterner Vest — <i>Sr. Mary Norbert, S.S.J.</i>	No. 1
Fashion Doll's Western Leather Outfit — <i>Mary E. Walters</i>	No. 1
Misty's Shift — <i>Gus Bouquet</i>	No. 2

TECHNIQUES

Combining Leathers — <i>Maisie G. Ferguson</i>	No. 1
Optical Illusion — <i>Stan Schirmacher</i>	No. 1
Know Your Crafttools — <i>Al Stohlman</i>	No. 1
Filigree Caning — <i>Kay Rettger</i>	No. 2
The Fur Handbag — <i>Paul G. Tuttle</i>	No. 2
Dye Dauber Care — <i>Thomas Dahlstrom</i>	No. 2
Know Your Crafttools — <i>Al Stohlman</i>	No. 3
Crafttool Tech Tip No. 1 — <i>Al Stohlman</i>	No. 3
Dye With Ballpoints — <i>Sgt. F. W. Churchill, Jr.</i>	No. 3
3-Tool Technique & Oil Dyeing — <i>Al VanDorn</i>	No. 3
Showman's Attache Case — <i>Clifford A. Larson</i>	No. 4
Lacing The Needle — <i>Joe L. Ballenger</i>	No. 4
Crafttool Tech Tip No. 2 — <i>Al Stohlman</i>	No. 4
Inlaid Lettering — <i>Jack D. Hunter</i>	No. 5
Crafttool Tech Tip No. 3 — <i>Al Stohlman</i>	No. 5
Branding Leather — <i>Rena S. Lord</i>	No. 6
Key Cases for Craftaid Designs — <i>William L. Sheeler</i>	No. 6
Alphabet for 1½ inch Belts — <i>Stan Schirmacher</i>	No. 6
Make 'Em Right — <i>Bonnie Kappel</i>	No. 6
Crafttool Tech Tip No. 4 — <i>Al Stohlman</i>	No. 6
Small Projects & Useful Ideas — <i>Paul J. Bertelsman</i>	No. 6

LEATHER WITH OTHER MATERIALS

Saddle Desk Set — <i>Sam Bacak</i>	No. 1
Belt, Bolo and Tie Rack — <i>Herb Mowry</i>	No. 1
Miniature Mexican Saddle — <i>Elsie V. Hanauer</i>	No. 1
Miniature Boot — <i>Elsie V. Hanauer</i>	No. 3
Smoking Stand — <i>Ava Becton</i>	No. 3
Box Type Camera Case — <i>Gerald Shirk</i>	No. 3
Coffee Table — <i>George Hurst</i>	No. 4
Guild Plaque — <i>Emma J. Cook</i>	No. 4
Edge Slicker — <i>J. D. Hunter</i>	No. 4
Light Safe For Leather — <i>Harry J. Long</i>	No. 4
Stitching Horse DeLuxe — <i>Robert G. Johnson</i>	No. 4
Indian Tomahawk — <i>Elsie V. Hanauer</i>	No. 5

PROJECTS OF OTHER MATERIALS

Handmade Spinners — <i>Virgil L. Hoss</i>	No. 3
Belt Stamping Jig — <i>Bill Ricketts</i>	No. 6
Kachina Doll — <i>Elsie V. Hanauer</i>	No. 6

OF GENERAL INTEREST

Beat Poverty With A Hobby — <i>Russell J. Fornwalt</i>	No. 1
News of Guilds and Shows	No. 2
Gunfighters — <i>Howard Grayson</i>	No. 3
How To Sell Leathercraft — <i>Carl D. Ward</i>	No. 3
65-Year-Old Pocket Secretary & Tintypes	No. 3
House of Ideas — <i>Carita Bunnell</i>	No. 3
Squibble, or The Critter	No. 3
It's In The Books (Reviews) — <i>Dewey Dirrim</i>	Nos. 3 & 6
Sixth Annual Carved Leather Picture Contest Results	No. 5
"New" Side Saddle — <i>Bo Graft</i>	No. 5
Arts & Crafts In War On Poverty — <i>H. L. Gilbert</i>	No. 6
Seascape — <i>Nell Copson</i>	No. 6
Build Your Own Workshop — <i>Steve Ellingson</i>	No. 6
Help Your Child Choose the Right Vocation	No. 6

DEPARTMENTS

Leather Skivings — <i>Bert Griffin</i>	Every Issue
Tips & Hints	Every Issue
Book Reviews — <i>Dewey Dirrim</i>	Nos. 3 & 6

shading will be required in many cases to obtain a truly masterful reproduction.

I really enjoy this book and even if I never find time to carve one of these magnificent scenes, it is a most welcome addition to my library. *HDD.*

Craft Books Received

The Book of Arts and Crafts by Marguerite Ickis and Reba Seldon Esh, paper bound, 8½" x 5½", 275 pages, \$1.75 Dover Publications New York N.Y.

Creative Lithography and How To Do It by Grant Arnold, 8½" x 5½", 155 pages, \$1.75, Dover, New York.

Art In Wood by Milton W. Wille, 9½" x 6½", 76 pages, \$3.00, The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wis.

Sculpture With Simple Materials by Robert and Joan Dawson, 10¾" x 8¼", 96 pages. A Sunset Book, \$1.95, Lane Magazine and Book Co., Menlo Park Calif.

TIPS and HINTS

If a rivet has been set wrong, it is a real problem to remove. The easiest way I have discovered is to use a 3/16" bit in a hand drill. Place the bit in the hole in the bottom of the rivet and drill till the metal of the rivet has worn through. Be careful not to let the bit slip out of the hole. It will go through your project.

Jim Scaglione
Tampa, Fla.

The many collectors of stamps will certainly appreciate a stamp album that is unique and personalized. This can be made by covering the album with leather. Before the leather is cemented to the album, initials can be tooled and extra stamps can be glued to a depressed area that has also been tooled on the leather. I recommend Neat-Lac as a good leather finisher that will not alter the color of the stamps. This is one project that is open to many designs and colorations. Good Luck!

Robert H. Shenton
USAF retired
Tampa, Fla.

Many craftsmen use a stiffener in handbag bottoms and in some